

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6571

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 1519

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EEC

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RE-ELECTS BERKHOUWER AS
PRESIDENT

1. THE MARCH SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP) EACH YEAR IS THE FORMAL CLOSING OF THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND THE OPENING OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION. AT THIS TIME THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARLIAMENT IS RECONSTITUTED. ON MARCH 12, DURING THIS MONTH'S SESSION AT STRASBOURG, THE PRESIDENT AND ELEVEN VICE PRESIDENTS WERE ELECTED FOR THE 1974-75 LEGISLATIVE YEAR. DUTCH LIBERAL BERKHOUWER WAS RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT, WITHOUT OPPOSITION, FOR A SECOND ONE-YEAR TERM.

2. A FRENCH COMMUNIST MEMBER, BORDU, WAS ELECTED AS ONE OF THE ELEVEN VICE PRESIDENTS. (PARLIAMENT'S RULES CALL FOR TWELVE VICE PRESIDENTS, BUT ONE SEAT IS KEPT VACANT BECAUSE OF THE NON-UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTICIPATION BY THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY.) VICE PRESIDENTIAL

SEATS ARE ALLOTTED TO THE POLITICAL GROUPS ACCORDING TO THEIR SIZE; IN THIS DISTRIBUTION, THE COMMUNISTS, WHO NOW ARE ONE OF THE SIX POLITICAL GROUPS, WERE ALLOTTED THE POSITION OF FIFTH VICE PRESIDENT (TAKING ONE OF THE FIVE VICE PRESIDENCIES PREVIOUSLY ALLOTTED TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP).

3. PENDING ACTION BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT TO DESIGNATE THE NEW EP MEMBERS FROM THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT, THE PREVIOUS BRITISH MEMBERS (WHETHER RE-ELECTED OR NOT) CAN REMAIN AS MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT UNTIL NEW BRITISH MEMBERS ARE DESIGNATED. IF THE BRITISH TAKE NO ACTION TO DESIGNATE NEW MEMBERS, THE OLD MEMBERS CAN REMAIN IN THE PARLIAMENT FOR A PERIOD UP TO SIX MONTHS AFTER THEIR NATIONAL ELECTIONS. (HOWEVER, DICK TAVERNE, WHO IS AFFILIATED WITH THE SOCIALIST GROUP, HAS ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE EP TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.)GREENWALD

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